

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00543 131554Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 /082 W

-----131607Z 055989 /50

O R 131530Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5949

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0543

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RH, SF

SUBJ: CAPE TOWN TALKS ON RHODESIA

SUMMARY: VORSTER,OWEN AND SMITH HAVE THUS FAR BEEN CAUTIOUS IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT THEIR CAPE TOWN TALKS ON RHODESIA. FOLLOWING OWEN'S SEPARATE MEETING TODAY WITH VORSTER AND SMITH,HE WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AS WILL SMITH LATER IN THE EVENING. END SUMMARY.

1. LATEST ROUND OF RHODESIAN TALKS GOT UNDER WAY LAST NIGHT WITH THE THREE PRINCIPALS ADOPTING A CAUTIOUS

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ATTITUDE IN DEALING WITH PRESS DURING THE PRELIMINARY ROUND. AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN CAPE TOWN APRIL 11 WITH DAVID SMITH, VAN DER BLY AND JACK GAYLARD, SMITH TOLD NEWSMEN "WE SHOULD NOT EXPECT TOO MUCH" FROM THE TALKS. HE COMMENTED THAT OWEN WAS NEW TO HIS POSITION AS FOREIGN SECRETARY AND HAD "ABSOLUTELY NO PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE" WITH THE RHODESIAN SITUATION. HE DEPLORED OWEN'S

UNWILLINGNESS TO VISIT RHODESIA. ASKED WHETHER HE HAD PROPOSALS TO PUT TO OWEN, SMITH SAIDHE WOULD WAIT TO SEE IF BRITAIN INTENDED TO SCRAP "THE ANGLO-AMERICAN AGREEMENT" OR WHETHER THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY OF GOING BACK TO IT.

2. SMITH MET WITH VORSTER LATE APRIL 12 FOR OVER AN HOUR. AT THE END OF THAT MEETING, VORSTER TOLD PRESS SIMPLY THAT "WE DISPOSED OF OUR BUSINESS" AND THERE WOULD BE NO STATEMENT. SMITH WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THERE HAD BEEN "BACKGROUND DISCUSSIONS" AND A "SWAPPING OF IDEAS."

3. UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN CAPE TOWN FROM MAPUTO ON EVENING OF APRIL 12, OWEN MET FOR HALF A HOUR WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA AT THE AIRPORT. AFTER THAT MEETING, OWEN TOLD WAITING NEWSMEN "I AM A GREAT BELIVER IN REALISM. I THINK IT IS NECESSARY TO BE HERE AND I AM GLAD TO BE HERE." HE SAID IT WOULD BE BEST TO LEAVE ANY STATEMENTS UNTIL AFTER THE APRIL 13 MEETINGS.

4. OWEN MET WITH VORSTER AT 0900 THIS MORNING AND SMITH AT 1430 THIS AFTERNOON. WE WILL NOT HAVE READOUTS ON THESE UNTIL LATER THIS EVENING. OWEN IS SCHEDULED TO TALK TO NEWSMEN UNDER CAPE TOWN PRESS CLUB AUSPICES AT 1800. SMITH WILL FOLLOW UP WITH A PRESS CONFERENCE AT 1930. AT PRESENT, OWEN IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE CAPE TOWN FOR GABORONE AT 0900 TOMORROW, APRIL 14. BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 13-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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